



Washington



Lincoln

WGES NEWS



February 2010

Principal's Talk

Dear Parents:



If you know of children in the district who will be 4 years of age by December 1 of this year, please help us to get the message out that we need current mailing information for our Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program. Parents are welcome to call the school at 535-3250, to make sure their child is in the system for future mailings. We are also offering special in-house registration days for parents to come into the school to fill out paperwork for preschool admittance. Parents of UPK-age children can come into the volunteer office on March 10 & 11 for help with registration.

I am pleased to announce that we will start our 6th Annual Read for Speed Program on February 22. This program requires a community effort to help our students gain a love of reading. Watkins Glen International sponsors the program. WGI helps us motivate students by participating in a reading assembly and offering support through their time in obtaining reading incentives. Various local businesses donate many of the incentives. In order for the program to work, it takes a lot of extra time from our staff, which I appreciate greatly. At the same time, it requires extra time from parents, who are expected to get involved by reading to your child and encouraging your child to spend a little more time reading at home. By working together, we can set a great example and give our children a gift that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Please look for more information as we get closer to the date.

Sincerely,

Mr. Weeden

Reading Corner

Improving Reading Fluency

Improving reading fluency is relatively simple, but it does take time. One of the most important tools for developing fluency is repeat reading. When selecting a piece for repeat reading, choose something that is at your child's reading level. My personal favorite for repeat reading is poetry, and the anthology that I use the most is *If Kids Ruled the School*, selected by Bruce Lansky. Students also love the Shel Silverstein collections such as *A Light in the Attic* or *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. Another great resource for repeat readings can be found at WWW.ReadNaturally.com They have developed an entire collection of one minute readers at a variety of grade levels.

Author - Jeanne Rutgers



Dropping Students Off at School

When dropping your child off at school, please consider safety first and be considerate of others. The front of the school has a drop off area for students. Please make sure children exit cars on the side closest to the side walk. If you plan on walking your child into the building, please park your car in one of the spots available. Do not leave your car running in the middle of the traffic area. This blocks other parents who are trying to drop their child off. A frustrated driver can lead to increased safety problems.

CALENDAR CHANGES

Please know that changes have been made to the school calendar because of the change in state testing dates. There is school on March 22 and no school on May 3. The month of February is still the same. There is a half day on February 12 (dismissal at 12:05), and Winter Recess is still scheduled for 3 days only, Feb. 15, 16, & 17.

Important Dates:



Feb 1 – No School Conference Day

Feb 10 – PTO Mtg. 5:30, ES Library

Feb 22 – Start of the Read for Speed Program

Feb 1 - BOE Mtg. 6:30 PM @ HS

Feb 14 – Valentine's Day

Feb 22 - SDM Mtg. 3:45 PM @ ES

Feb 5 – Report Cards Issued

Feb 15-17-No School (Winter Recess)

Feb 27th – Student Council's Hat Day